

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5224

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR: COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
OAKRIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORIES AND PAKISTAN
INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. DURING CALL ON PAKISTAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (PAEC) CHAIRMAN MUNIR KHAN BY A/DCM AND SCIENCE OFFICER, KHAN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF EXTENDING THE RECENTLY EXPIRED AID-FUNDED TEN-YEAR COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OAKRIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORIES AND THE PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PINSTECH). THE AGREEMENT, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL TO PAKISTAN, AND HE THOUGHT ALSO TO THE US, AND HE WONDERED IF THE EMBASSY COULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-INSTITUTING IT IN SOME WAY.

2. KHAN VERY MUCH FEARED THAT UNLESS SOME NEW COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT IS WORKED OUT, SCIENTISTS WORKING IN SUCH FIELDS AS NUCLEAR AGRICULTURE AND MEDICINE, WOULD LOSE PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL TOUCH WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN AMERICA. HE WANTED TO AVOID, HE SAID, WHAT HAD OCCURRED TO PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR SCIENCE TIES WITH THE U.K. SINCE A UK-GOP COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT EXPIRED FIVE YEARS AGO, TIES WITH THE U.K. HAD ATROPHIED AND WERE NOW VIRTUALLY

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NONEXISTENT. HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN WITH THE U.S.

SINCE PAKISTAN HAD SO MUCH TO GAIN FROM AMERICAN RESEARCH AND CONTACTS AND FROM THE WAY AMERICANS APPROACH SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS IN GENERAL.

3. EMBOFFS SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD HIS POINT BUT EXPLAINED TO KHAN THAT UNDER AID'S PRESENT TERMS OF REFERENCE AID COULD NOT HELP IN THIS FIELD. HOWEVER WE UNDERSTAND FROM USAID THAT THIS MAY NOT TECHNICALLY BE A CORRECT STATEMENT AND THAT AID FINANCING MAY BE POSSIBLE SUBJECT TO SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION AND U.S. INTEREST IN CONTINUATION OF THE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS. FYI DR. HENRY ARNOLD, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AID/W, VISITED PAKISTAN IN APRIL 1975 AND DISCUSSED WITH MR. MUNIR KHAN AND DR. ASHFAQ HUSAIN, DIRECTOR OF PINSTECH, CONTINUATION OF THIS PROGRAM. AT THE TIME HE DID NOT FEEL THERE WAS SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUATION OF AID FUNDING IN VIEW OF LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF PINSTECH. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT ASSISTANCE AND ON RETURN TO THE U.S. HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH ORNL TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS.

4. REQUEST: IN VIEW OF RENEWED INTEREST ON PART OF MUNIR KHAN AND OUR FEELING IT WOULD BE IN INTEREST OF U.S. TO CONTINUE THE ORNL/PINSTECH RELATIONSHIP, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DISCUSSING POSSIBILITIES FOR FUNDING WITH ARNOLD. ALSO, YOU MIGHT CHECK WITH NSF, ERDA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES. COSTS OF THE PROGRAM ARE VERY MODEST, LESS THAN \$50,000 PER YEAR, AND IN ADDITION TO SERVING U.S. INTERESTS, SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD ENABLE PAKISTANI NUCLEAR SCIENTISTS TO GET EXPOSURE TO U.S. VIEWS ON NUCLEAR-RELATED TOPICS AND WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR INTEREST IN HELPING PAKISTAN IN NON-SENSITIVE NUCLEAR AREAS. THIS WILL WIN US GOODWILL AND PERHAPS SOME SCIENTIFIC SPINOFFS AS WELL. THE EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THAT ANY CHANNEL WHICH FOSTERS PERSONAL TIES AND PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACTS WITH GOP NUCLEAR ESTABLISHMENT IS VALUABLE AT THIS JUNCTURE.

5. MR. MATTHIAS OF USAID, WHO WAS PROJECT MANAGER FOR FORMER PROJECT, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 10 AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IF DESIRABLE. LSYROADE

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